(b) whether any special recruitment drive is proposed to be conducted to fill-up the vacancies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) As per information available the backlog of vacancies reserved for handicapped as reported by Central Government Offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings is 487 and 262 for Group C and D posts as on 1.1.1992.

(b) to (d) Special Recruitment drives have been conducted in 1987, 1988 and 1990 to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for handicapped under Visually and hearing handicapped category. The process of filling up of these vacancies on the basis of Special Recruitment Drive 1990 is still continuing.

Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST

371. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMARAO PATIL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the students under the National Overseas Scholarships schemes for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and other weaker sections of the society are unable to complete their studies within the prescribed time limit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of students gone abroad under the scheme so far and the number of those who have not returned as per the terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The awardees of National Overseas Scholarship have been by and large requesting for extensions of time for completing their studies.

(b) Difference in academic standards and problems of adjustment may be the reasons.

(c) Out of 445 students sent abroad so far, 11 students have not returned to India as per the terms and conditions of agreement.

Child Marriage in the Country

372. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government so far to prevent child marriages in the country in violation of Sharda Act and what are the results achieved;

(b) in which part of the country child marriages are still prevalent and what are the reasons identified for failure of the law forbidding such marriages and the various measures taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the number of child marriage, performed annually; and

(d) what further measures are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Facilities for the National Commission for SC/ST

373. SHRI KAMESHWAR PASWAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has protested against the inadequate facilities for its proper functioning, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Chairman, National Commission for SCs and STs has written letters for transfer of posts including assets and liabilities of the erstwhile office of the Commissioner for SCs and STs and restoration of some posts abolished in the erstwhile National Commission